

Bird-life at Yoting.—Yoting is a siding 14 miles east of Quairading on the York-Bruce Rock railway. The annual rainfall is 14 inches. Most of the land has been cleared for wheatgrowing, and within a mile of the siding fewer than 200 acres still carry natural vegetation. The latter mainly comprises strips of York gum with jam. Only a few acres of the salmon gum-gimlet association remain. In addition there is a remnant of sandplain vegetation, known here as "tamma," which is dominated by a low, bushy *Casuarina*.

Only two arboreal species showed any habitat restriction; the *Sittella* was confined to salmon gums, and the Brown Honeyeater to tamma.

The following list is that of birds seen within a mile of the siding during my visit (from December 2, 1952 until January 16, 1953). After each resident species comparative abundance is indicated by an index (up to 10), which is based on rough population counts. Visiting species are marked "V".

Banded Plover (4), Black-fronted Dotterel (V), White-faced Heron (V), Whistling Eagle (1), Brown Hawk (1), Boobook Owl (seen; numbers unknown), White-tailed Black Cockatoo (V), Galah (V), Port Lincoln Parrot (9), Smoker Parrot (4), Mulga Parrot (3), Bee-eater (1), Pallid Cuckoo (V), Black-eared Cuckoo (V), Welcome Swallow (V), White-backed Swallow (3), Tree Martin (2), Willy Wagtail (4), Red-capped Robin (3), Rufous Whistler (2), Western Shrike-thrush (1), Magpie-Lark (3), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (1), White-browed Babbler (5), White-fronted Chat (6), Weebill (1), Chestnut-tailed Thornbill (3), Yellow-tailed Thornbill (10), Black-faced Wood-swallow (8), Black-capped Sittella (1), Red-tipped Pardalote (1), Brown-headed Honeyeater (V), Brown Honeyeater (2), Singing Honeyeater (4), Yellow-throated Miner (1), Red Wattle-bird (1), Pipit (7), Zebra Finch (3), Little Crow (7), Grey Butcher-bird (1), Western Magpie (2).

Around Pantapin Siding, 4 miles east of Yoting, there is considerably more scrub, especially of mallee and sandplain. Here were seen Brown Thornbills, Crested Bell-birds, and White-eared Honeyeaters, in addition to most of the species listed for Yoting. The Common Bronzewing and the Kestrel were observed at Pantapin and also at Badjaling (5 miles west of Yoting), but neither, strangely enough, were noted at Yoting.

—GLEN STORR, Floreat Park.

Birds and Intense Heat.—On January 21, 1953, we experienced an exceedingly hot day. The shade temperature recorded was 115° F. A number of instances of how birds reacted to the conditions came under my notice. Several individuals sheltered under my house, entering through a small opening, 1½ in. high and 2 ft. long, which was on the east side and in the shade during the heat of the day. Here Yellow-tailed Thornbills (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) sheltered between 1.30 and 6 p.m. One Red-tipped Diamond-bird (*Pardalotus substriatus*) and one Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*) were also there for a short period. One Yellow-tailed Thornbill flew